



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 8 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT Traumatic Brain Injury Questions for the Post-Deployment Health
Assessment

Traumatic brain injury (TBI), whether mild, moderate, or severe, is a significant combat and non-combat health concern. Assessment, treatment and prognosis of TBI is an emerging science. Many affected with mild TBI will recover fully, some will have persistent symptoms, and the full extent of clinical expression and required remedies is not yet clear. We must lean forward to capture data that will contribute to a better understanding of TBI, its identification, and its treatment.

Although a state of the art field screening tool to detect and better manage those with mild or moderate TBI events has been fielded since 2006, I have concluded that we must take additional measures at the time of redeployment and at the time of the post deployment health re-assessment, to ensure that service members who have experienced non-obvious and subtle TBI effects are identified and appropriately followed and managed. To that end, I am incorporating screening questions into the Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA, DD Form 2796), the Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA, DD Form 2900), and the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA, HART-R electronic form), as a paper or electronic addendum, pending revision of the paper or electronic forms.

Effective June 1, 2007, the DD Form 2796 addendum (attached) or electronic equivalent will be used as a part of the PDHA and the PDHRA for all service members returning from deployments, and the PHA for all service members, and will be captured electronically. My point of contact for this action is Colonel Tony Carter, tony.carter@tma.osd.mil, (703) 575-2674.

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachment
As stated

cc

Surgeon General, US Army

Surgeon General, US Navy

Surgeon General, US Air Force

Joint Staff Surgeon

Medical Officer of the Marine Corps

Director, Health and Safety, US Coast Guard

Yes No

☐ ☐ S1 While deployed, were you exposed to or near a blast, IED explosion, car bomb, suicide explosion, or exposed to any other combat event that caused a blow or jolt to your head?

☐ ☐ S2 While deployed, were you involved in a motor vehicle accident, a fall, a sports accident, or any other event that caused a blow to your head or neck whiplash?

I certify that this review process has been completed
Provider's signature and stamp

--

Date (dd / mm / yyyy)

--

--

--

--

End of Health Review